

## Rainier Beach Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC)

### MEETING SUMMARY

January 19, 2011 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Southeast Seattle Senior Center

#### ATTENDEES

##### **NAC Members:**

Cheryl dos Remedios, Christie Coxley, David Sauvion, Gregory Davis, Harry Hoffman, Katy Curtis, Margaret Yellowwolf, Matt Kozleski, Mohamed Sheikh Hassan, Paul Lee, Peter Masundire, Robert West "Trey", Rodolfo Castillo, Vallerie Fisher

##### **Public Members:**

Katheryn Flake, Justina Guyott, Shindo Salad, Margaret Nation, Kenneth Gillgren

##### **City Staff:**

Nora Liu (DPD), Pamela Banks (DON), Sebhat Tenna (DON), David Goldberg (DPD)

#### **Agenda review**

- Should two public comment periods be offered during the meeting; one at the middle and one at the end?

***Consensus Decision: Meetings will include two public comment periods, one at the middle of the meeting for 5 minutes, one at the end for 5 minutes. If necessary, the decision can be revisited again in the future.***

- Paul Lee stated for the record that decision has not been reached as to why NAC meeting is not open for the public to fully participate instead of being limited to public comment periods.

#### **December Summary Notes**

- Comment was made that not all comments made under the heading "Letter from Five Community Members" are captured/included in the summary notes.

***Consensus Decision: Approve summary notes with stipulation to flesh out the section under "Letter from Five Community Members". Additional items would be e-mailed in by NAC members within one week and staff will revisit the audio file.***

**Goal of meeting:** Review, get advice and recommendations to move forward on upcoming community meeting

#### **Public Comment Period**

- Justina Guyott: Would be more efficient to allow public to fully participate in the NAC meetings. When the notes are amended it is important that they reflect public has asked to be involved in the process and have not been allowed, other than the 5-minute comment periods.

- Margaret Nation: Not asking for anything more than anyone else has at any other NAC meeting. I work, shop, have my business, etc. in the neighborhood. It is my civil right to be here, to be able to speak up and talk for myself and my community. By not allowing me to speak, I feel I am being pushed out of my own community.

### **March Community Forum**

- Struggling to find a venue for the meeting. NAC will be updated through the listserv once the date and location are finalized.

### **Proposed agenda, survey questions, and methods of outreach**

- Goal for March Forum is to bring community folks together in dialogue to identify priorities/areas to address in the update.
  - Proposed March meeting agenda:
    - First item will be presenting meeting overview, introduction to NAC and POLs.
    - Then we will break out into small groups for a series of exercises
      - Small group discussion around proposed questions in packet.
      - Next will be a mapping exercise. Maps will show community assets, such as grocery stores, community centers, libraries, etc. Participants will be asked to identify what they use, what needs to be added to the maps, and how they access these locations.
      - Instant polling devices will be used during last part of forum when participants answer multiple choice questions.
    - We will re-convene to close the meeting
    - There may be an optional Open House hosted by the NAC for people in the community to continue conversations and to get to know one another.
  - Themes will be developed from this information.
  - NAC discussed difficulties some people might have around mapping/land use/planning. City staff stated they would take this information in consideration and that the process has already been done in the Othello, North Beacon and North Rainier. Most people had never participated in this type of work before and were very diverse, yet they were able to do the work successfully.
- Q. What would be done with the data and how important is it to the city?
- A. Community members have more in-depth knowledge of their own community. The information helps the city break down issues into smaller pieces that can be addressed.
- NAC member stated input needs to be specific, not general and use the land use code to make changes.
  - Staff stated that in the last three plan updates, people were concerned that it would just address land use; but updates address much more.

- Staff proposed to have a NAC-hosted open house at end of event, so people can stay afterward and talk, eat, get more information.
  - NAC likes the idea and suggested to have youth performing groups and age appropriate sessions for planning.

## **Reporting out after small group discussions on March Agenda, Proposed Questions and Community Outreach/engagement:**

### **“Proposed Questions” Group comments:**

- Meeting objectives were unclear; need rewording so that the objectives are met by the end of the meeting.
- Mapping should come on agenda before questions.
- Should ask more personal, emotional questions – what makes you happy, sad, excited about your neighborhood, etc.
- Don’t frame the question – seem to have an outcome already in mind
- Need lists of options, rather than open end question
- Assumes there is a single commercial district; don’t use leading questions.
- Should ask where people get information about the community
- Need more “who” type questions

### **“Outreach and Public Engagement” Group comments:**

- Need to identify representative groups within each item
- Identify number as a goal, i.e. 500 or percentage goal for each group to attend
- Provide information to apartment managers, churches
- Promote access to resources at meeting; could have a job board, utilities, information, etc.
- Be aware of and respectful of privacy issues
- Need follow-up information on the forum available for those who could not attend
- Ethnic media play a huge role
- Need to have sufficient number of residents of neighborhood attend to give outcome credibility
- Might schedule Open House at a different time to allow people to attend who could not make it to forum

### **“March Agenda” Group comments:**

- Add question about how children get to school
- Add topography to map
- Encourage people to come to meeting via alternate transportation; perhaps offer follow-up walking tour to familiarize people with issues brought up
- How to engage people with varying level of interest in mapping, land use, etc. – have another area with more in-depth information for those who would appreciate it.

- Consider cultural differences in transportation – East African adults would not bike – that is seen as an activity for children. Nor would adults wear shorts.
- Facilitator should clarify how information is to be used

***City will take feedback and bring revised documents back to NAC.***

## **NAC Meeting Agendas**

- January, February and March draft agenda topics were shared  
**January** – recommendations for phase I – engagement, meeting structure  
**February** – overview of entire year – remaining departments, community engagement/outreach, look at background work from SEED, Evans School projects and RBCEC for Rainier Beach  
**March** – begin synthesizing of information from Community Forum
- NAC group would like information on the Evans School projects provided before the forum, and discussion of the projects after the forum.

***NAC members will use e-mail to decide how the Evans School information will be discussed and shared prior to forum.***

- NAC member stressed that School District needs to take part in the process.
- Pamela and Veronica Sherman-King had met with School District official and Deputy Mayor. School District is primarily interested in academic achievement, not facility, land issues.

***NAC agreed to spend 15 minutes at next meeting clarifying what the group wants from the School District before asking them to come to a meeting.***

- NAC member suggested to have City department (Housing, HSD, OED, Parks, SPD and Arts) provide their presentation after the public forum so they can address specific issues, rather than do general presentations.
- Should also work on communication to groups about the public forum to ensure there is a single message.
- Should also define further role/expectations of NAC.

***Nora will put together a draft agenda for February to circulate for feedback/input.***

## **Public Comment**

Justina Guyott:

- Who is setting the agenda? It seems that the City is setting the agenda and only asking community to fill in details. Community should be setting the agenda. City should be creating a platform for community to participate in a meaningful way.
- Tell me why this is important to me, make it clear this is a state mandate, a plan for growth, drives development, establishes city policies, allocates capital funds. Rephrase questions so community is setting agenda.
- Education is not part of Comp Plan, but we need to have this as part of discussion as it is of concern in the community.
- Address can be used an indicator of income. Ask for their income.

- At the last meeting a proposal from residents dated December 3 was supposed to be discussed. Proposal was not intended for NAC but for City staff. It has not been addressed by either staff or NAC.

Kenneth Gillgren:

- Rainier Beach Community Empowerment Coalition (RBCEC) – works on solving neighborhood problems. By joining with the Forum, the RBCEC is yielding the setting of priorities for this year. NAC doesn't handle things like bus stops being closed, principals being changed.
- Need to engage community beyond answering a few questions. Need to have people at forum that community members can talk to about specific issues. NAC has longer time frame. People will be disappointed if they are not given opportunity to take some immediate action.
- Whatever can be done in March Forum to emphasize that joint ownership should be done. Have neighborhood person welcoming people to the forum. The city and NAC need to work together and demonstrate that.